

## **Phased Implementation of Import Requirements for Wood Packaging Materials**

### **Background**

On September 16, 2004, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published the Final Rule (7 CFR 319.40 - Importation of Wood Packaging Material) concerning the importation of wood packaging material (WPM). The implementation date for regulatory enforcement is September 16, 2005. The delay between publication and implementation has allowed an appropriate amount of time for countries to establish programs to become compliant with ISPM 15 (the international standard as addressed in the Final Rule) and the Final Rule.

The Final Rule states that all regulated WPM shall be appropriately treated and marked under an official program developed and overseen by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) in the country of export.

### **Phase-in Period**

The United States, in cooperation with Mexico and Canada, will begin enforcement of the ISPM 15 standard for regulated WPM entering North America on September 16, 2005. The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) strategy for enhanced enforcement shall be conducted in three phases; the diagram (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/wpm/implementation.pdf>) is the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) matrix for the enforcement of ISPM 15 between September 16, 2005 and July 05, 2006.

#### **Phase 1:**

**September 16, 2005 through January 31, 2006:** NAPPO countries shall implement an Informed Compliance via account managers and notices posted in connection with cargo that contains noncompliant WPM.

#### **Phase 2:**

**February 01, 2006 through July 04, 2006:** NAPPO countries shall begin rejection of violative crates and pallets through re-exportation from North America. Informed compliance via account managers and notices posted in cargo with other types of non compliant WPM shall remain enforce.

#### **Phase 3:**

**July 05, 2006.** Full Enforcement on all articles of regulated WPM entering the United States and North America. Non compliant Regulated WPM will not be allowed to enter the United States.

Importers and suppliers of U.S. imports are strongly encouraged to have all regulated WPM meet the ISPM 15 standard to avoid delays or rejection of WPM in cargo shipments at U.S. ports of entry due to noncompliance of the ISPM 15 Standard.

### **Questions**

Questions concerning Port of Entry Operations may be referred to the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection: Phone (202) 354-1000 or 1-877-CBP-5511 Monday-Friday, between 8:30 and 5:00 Eastern Time.

APHIS has a toll free number for those persons with questions pertaining to the importation of WPM during the initial enhanced enforcement period. The APHIS toll free number in the United States and in some Canadian locations is 866-738-8197. International callers who may not have access to the toll free number may call (USA country code) 301-734-5346. This service will be active from September 01, 2005 through October 16, 2005, and may be extended if necessary.

#### Links

Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection

[http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/commercial\\_enforcement/wpm/wpm\\_faq.xml](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/commercial_enforcement/wpm/wpm_faq.xml)

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/wpm/wpm.html>